



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

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Intermountain Region News Release

December Prescribed Fire Rescheduled in Bandelier National Monument

LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO: Bandelier National Monument Superintendent, Darlene M. Koontz, has announced that a management ignited prescribed fire will occur within the northern portion of the monument this week. The 377 acre Upper Frijoles Burn Unit (Unit 9) is located along State Road 4 near the head of Frijoles Canyon. "This prescribed fire is planned to begin on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 and will last for 3 to 5 days," she said.

"Maintaining firefighter and public safety during this prescribed fire operation is our top priority," said Bandelier Fire Management Officer Gary Kemp. "It is important for commuters to give themselves extra time to travel on this segment of State Road 4 and for everyone to slow down. Smoke may be present and firefighters will be working along the roadways. Lane closures and delays are possible throughout the week. It is also important that park visitors and area residents not stop along the roadway or enter the area while burning operations are being conducted."

Smoke emissions will be managed in accordance with New Mexico Environment Department - Air Quality Bureau regulations. "The only place that we anticipate much smoke is along the roadway," said Koontz. Smoke impacts along roads will be monitored and park staff will be available to direct traffic if visibility is impaired. Limited road closures are anticipated, but all areas in the Upper Frijoles Unit of the park (including the Cross-country Ski Trail and Cerro Grande Unit) will be closed during ignition and periods of active fire spread. Some smoke may be visible in the area for several days following the burn.

For more information regarding this prescribed fire or other fire management projects at Bandelier National Monument, call 505-662-7065 or email band_fire_comments@nps.gov or visit www.nps.gov/band.

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